

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for determining the rheology of a coating fluid, comprising:

providing a testing device having a container, a pressure gauge connected to the container and a capillary tube at an outlet of the container, the capillary tube having a smaller diameter than the outlet;

placing a sample of the coating fluid into the container of the testing device;

selecting a coating fluid shear rate corresponding to a process shear rate of a coating application process;

pressurizing the coating fluid sample to produce a predetermined flow rate through the capillary tube corresponding to the selected coating fluid shear rate; [[and]]

reading the back pressure on the coating fluid sample from the pressure gauge; and

using the back pressure reading to determine an upper coat weight limit for the coating fluid.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to claim 5, further comprising selecting the capillary tube from a plurality of capillary tubes each having different diameters.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 5, wherein the coating fluid shear rate is selected to be one of 2,000/sec, 20,000/sec, 62,000/sec, 63,000/sec, 300,000/sec, and 500,000/sec.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method ~~according to claims 5, further comprising~~ for determining the rheology of a coating fluid, comprising:

providing a testing device having a container, a pressure gauge connected to the container and a capillary tube at an outlet of the container, the capillary tube having a smaller diameter than the outlet;

placing a sample of the coating fluid into the container of the testing device;

selecting a coating fluid shear rate corresponding to a process shear rate of a coating application process;

pressurizing the coating fluid sample to produce a predetermined flow rate through the capillary tube corresponding to the selected coating fluid shear rate;

reading the back pressure on the coating fluid sample from the pressure gauge; and

using the back pressure reading to determine a pinhole limit for the coating fluid.

Claim 10 (original): A method for determining and adjusting the rheology of a coating fluid used with a coating application die, wherein the coating application die is not designed specifically for the coating fluid, the method comprising:

providing a testing device having a container, a pressure gauge connected to the container and a capillary tube at an outlet of the container, the capillary tube having a smaller diameter than the outlet;

placing a sample of the coating fluid into the container of the testing device;

selecting a coating fluid shear rate corresponding to a process shear rate of the coating application die;

pressurizing the coating fluid sample to produce a predetermined flow rate through the capillary tube corresponding to the selected coating fluid shear rate;

reading the back pressure on the coating fluid sample from the pressure gauge;

determining if the rheology of the coating fluid is acceptable for the coating application die using the back pressure reading.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 10, further comprising adding a rheology modifier to the coating fluid to make a modified coating fluid if the coating fluid is not acceptable for the coating application die, followed by repeating the steps of placing a sample of the modified coating fluid through determining if the rheology of the modified coating fluid is acceptable.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the coating fluid shear rate is selected to be between about 2,000/second and 20,000/second.

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 12, further comprising selecting the capillary tube from a plurality of capillary tubes each having different diameters.

Claim 14 (original): A method according to claim 10, further comprising selecting the capillary tube from a plurality of capillary tubes each having different diameters.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of capillary tubes have diameters ranging from 0.010 inches to 0.050 inches.